

# Merseyside UFO BULLETIN

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 1

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

1969

Editor John Harney.

Asst.editor John A Rimmer.

Science editor Alan W Sharp, BSc, BEng, FRAS, FGS.

Please address reply to:

John Harney  
John A. Rimmer  
Alan W. Sharp

ON THE CONCEPTUAL CONNECTION BETWEEN FAIRIES AND UFO ENTITIES,  
AND THE NATURE OF REALITY

A CRITICAL LOOK AT THE INTERPLANETARY SPACESHIPS THEORY

SOME INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DAHL AND CRISMAN, AND  
UFO RESEARCHER GARY LESLEY

THE STYLE OF "SPACELINK"

## EDITORIAL

### Amiable Eccentrics? - Yes!

The Editorial in the latest issue of Flying Saucer Review bemoans the fact that ufologists are popularly regarded as harmless, amiable eccentrics.

We should not let this worry us too much, though. Ufology is a somewhat unusual subject and only a very small minority of the population is actively interested in it. In other words, the real reason why ufologists are considered eccentric is because there are, proportionally, so few of them.

Imagine, if you will, that only a few hundred people in Britain are interested in philately. Surely, it is an odd way to spend one's time, earnestly poring over scraps of coloured paper? But stamp collecting is not considered eccentric. Why? Simply because such vast numbers of people are actively interested in it. Thus we derive a law, which states:-

The degree of eccentricity of a spare-time pursuit is in inverse proportion to the proportion of the population actively pursuing it.

Some ufologists, though, are rather sensitive souls and cannot take comfort from such considerations. Let them consider, then, the dull, tedious creatures who slavishly follow the popular pastimes, eschewing in their unthinking, suburbanite conformity any subject which is strange, unusual, or seemingly inexplicable. Have they ever suffered the effects of being captive listeners to such people? I have.

At one time I habitually found myself sitting near a clique of these normal, non-eccentric gentlemen on the bus home from work each evening. Their topics of conversation were motor cars, gardening and office routine, interspersed with various domestic trivia. It was always the same. Well, nearly always. On one memorable occasion one of them boldly broached the subject of life and death and the purpose of existence. However, this topic petered out after about five minutes, after having elicited such brilliant observations as "Well, you can't take it with you," and they got on to the more vital and immediate subject of compost heaps, where they seemed more at home and at

(continued on page 14)

On the Conceptual Connection between Fairies and UFO Entities, and  
THE Nature of Reality

by John A. Rimmer

In recent years some ufologists, seeking a physical reality for UFOs, have abandoned the interplanetary vehicle theory, and are looking literally in the opposite direction. From the early days of the Shaver affair a small body of opinion has held that the secret of the UFO lies within the earth. One of the major arguments for this point of view depends on the prevalence in all countries and cultures of tales and traditions about dwellers within the earth. Tales like these are a fairly common feature of British folklore, and a considerable amount of research has been carried out into these stories.

The Celtic fairy tradition is rich in stories of the strange underworld inhabited by these creatures. In Cornwall there is a strong tradition of mine-piskies called 'knockers'. Apparently they are more often heard than seen. William Shepherd, a Cornish miner, speaking at the turn of the century said:

"There are mine-piskies which are not 'knockers'. I've heard the old men in the mines say that they have seen them, and call them the 'small people'. It appears they don't like company, for they are always seen singly. The knockers are spirits too, as one might say. They are said to bring bad luck, while the small people may bring good luck." (1)

In the Scottish tradition the most generally held view of fairyland -- Elf me -- is that it is deep within the earth. In the old lowland ballads it is a land without sun or moon, where rivers of blood and water swirl and crash in deep caverns. (2) In Welsh myth one encounters the land of Annwn -- the 'Not World' -- a strange underworld, penetrated occasionally by brave explorers, who experience the most remarkable adventures. (3) In Ireland the Sidhe and Tuatha de Dannan are associated with the fairy hills -- Raths -- which are held to be the entrances of the fairy underworld.

The truth may lie here. Not in a literal interpretation of the word 'entrance', but in an understanding of the significance of these raths and hills. They are, in the most part, the burial mounds of the early neolithic inhabitants of these islands. It is easy to imagine the Celtic peoples in their earliest migrations from south Germany meeting these neolithic races. To the Celts they would seem strange indeed. Living in semi-excavated 'beehive' dwellings, associated with the burial mounds, and of a small, and possibly to the newcomers, ugly nature. They may have been regarded as scarcely human. By the time of the Celtic immigration they would be few in number, which would give them a stealthy, elusive appearance. One could imagine that these aboriginal races would keep well away from the settlements of the newcomers, which again would make them appear a furtive and mysterious race. In later centuries, when the last of the neolithic tribes had vanished, the Celts would remember them in connection with the mounds, with the caves and deep valleys that they made their last refuge. Some of these mounds may have been opened and explored, to reveal the bones and artifacts of these short squat humanoids. The stories of these mound dwellers would grow. The small size of the passages and rooms in these mounds, and in the remains of the dwellings that were found, would give credence to the idea of a small, elusive, magical race. Walter Johnson (4) theorizes that fairy belief is:

"In large part, an obvious retention in folk-memory of a small, mystericus, magic-loving folk, who were in the minds of the Celtic peoples, the aborigines of the island.... The little folk of the neolithic period lived often in underground chambers;;;.. hence the Iron Age folk peopled every mound with fairies."

Here we are introduced to the idea of the Race Memory, Jung's 'collective subconscious', a thread of memory that is born

into us all, and connects us with our furthest ancestor. Such a memory would produce basic subconscious stimuli, and would go a long way to explain the tremendous public interest that was aroused by the Shaver affair, and such aspects of the UFO mystery as humanoid contacts, and UFO kidnappings, which parallel many stories of fairy abductions. It is clear that in the human mind there is some deep-seated emotion, which is responsive to the ideas of underground civilizations and troglodytic beings.

Having said this it is necessary to point out that this can be regarded as only one thread, albeit a major one, in the evolution of the fairy legend, and the later developments of it. It is a significant point "...that tales of little people are to be found in countries where there never were any pigmy races. ..The stunted races (that some folklorists) consider to have formed the subjects of the fairy legend, have themselves tales of little people..." (5) Other factors contributing to the growth of the fairy tradition may include belief in protective or malevolent ancestor figures, animistic spirits associated with specific objects and localities, derivations from god-like forms of early religions that have remained as a part of primitive and peasant culture, and totemic forms associated with a particular tribe or family. All of these threads have become woven together to form a strong cord of belief that one can conjecture lies within the mind of us all. In sophisticated, technological cultures, when this comes to the surface it must be rationalized as flying forms, interplanetary visitors or 'deros' (Although some may query that these can be regarded as 'rationalizations'!).

Creatures from the sky, and below the ground; tall, beautiful, god-like humans, or small, malevolent goblins, are so consistent a part of human experience, from Baffin Island to New Zealand, that there can be no doubt that they are real! Perhaps what ufologists should turn their hands and minds to is a definition of reality. The only reality that any human can experience is that which lies within himself. A dream is reality to the dreamer; life is a dream. Perhaps in our chosen field of study we have reached the stage when we should put away our magnetic-field detectors and spectroscopic analysis equipment, and start reading Bertrand Russel and Schopenhauer. A few philosophers taking an interest in UFOs would not only prove an interesting sight, but may produce some constructive results.

#### Notes and References

I have used the word 'fairy' in this essay, despite its Enid Blyton connotations, to refer to the class of phenomenon described. In its original usage it had no connection with gauzy, school-pantomime figures. I regard the spelling 'faerie' used by some writers on the subject as an unwarranted affectation.

1. W.Y. Evans Wentz: *Fairy Faith in Celtic Countries*, p 182.
2. The Ballad of Thomas the Rhymer.
3. E.Anwyl: *Celtic Religion in Pre-Christian Times*, p 60.
4. W.Johnson: *Folk Memory*, p 59.
- 5; B.C.A.Windle: *Introduction to Tyson's Essay 'Concerning the Pygmies of the Ancients'*, pp lxxxiv-xcvii.

#### Further Reading

Guest, Lady Charlotte (Trans.) *The Mabinogion*.  
Moore, A.D. *The Folklore of the Isle of Man*.  
Krappe, A.H. *Science of Folklore*.  
Rhys, J. *Celtic Folklore, Welsh and Manx*.  
Y Llyvyr Coch o Hergest (The Red Book of Hergest), edited by John Rhys and J.G.Evans.

## A CRITICAL LOOK AT THE INTERPLANETARY SPACESHIPS THEORY

by John Harney

Ever since the study of unexplained aerial phenomena began to be pursued seriously, in 1947, various hypotheses have been evolved in efforts to explain them. The most persistent belief, among those who have bothered to study the evidence, is that UFOs are spaceships from other planets.

This idea caused much alarm among scientists and politicians. After all, it might even be the true explanation. The prospect of having the present world order—or disorder—upset by the arrival of superior beings from outer space was disturbing, to say the least. However, if people could be persuaded to ignore the flying saucers, perhaps they would go away.

Consequently, the scientific pundits were always ready to dispense explanations for publicised UFO reports. In many instances these explanations were obviously the correct ones. In other cases the explanations did not stand up to critical examination. This usually did not matter because few people were prepared to critically examine them. When people did examine the explanations and find them invalid, their objections were usually ignored. The pundits had authority on their side.

The stream of glib "explanations" generally lulled the majority, who were not particularly interested anyway, into a belief that the whole UFO business was some sort of publicity stunt, or just the latest craze from America, like hula-hoops or bubble-gum.

It had the opposite effect on UFO enthusiasts. Interested sceptics became believers. Believers became eager believers. The authorities, the powers-that-be, even, were desperately trying to explain away perfectly good sightings; therefore, they had something to hide. Hadn't they?

That was that, then. The UFOs were spaceships from other planets and the various governments had obtained irrefutable evidence of this. They dared not release this evidence for fear of its inevitable effects on religion and the stock market. Anyway, it would cause a panic. Orson Welles caused a panic in 1938, with his radio presentation of H.G.Wells' "War of the Worlds". So, the revelation of the Truth about UFOs would cause a world-wide panic. People everywhere would panic and go on panicking. A prospect too awful to contemplate. And so the interplanetary spaceships theory gained strength.

As the theory had rapidly gained general acceptance among ufologists, they could settle down to the serious business of deciding why the spacemen were here and what was to be done about it. It was necessary to find out whether the spacemen were friendly or hostile, or whether they considered humanity to be too low a form of life to be worth contacting.

The truth could be discovered by sifting the evidence. It was soon realised that, although there was plenty of circumstantial evidence which seemed to point to the activities of technologically superior space intelligences, there was no really convincing physical evidence. The authorities knew the truth, though. Therefore they must have physical evidence. Actual flying saucers. Spacemen, even! It was thus necessary to explain how, among all the thousands of keen amateur ufologists scattered throughout the world, not one had managed to catch a flying saucer.

Very odd. But ingenious minds were at work on the problem. The answer was soon plain: there was a world-wide conspiracy to conceal the evidence. Military authorities everywhere were ever alert for news of a crashed saucer. Each time a saucer crashed the troops quickly moved in. The area was cordoned off. The saucer was quickly wrapped up in canvas and carted off on a lorry to a secret air force base and placed in a hangar, on which an armed guard was mounted.

At one time there were quite a lot of reports of crashed UFOs. Hangar space was at a premium. At some air force bases, technicians maintained and repaired aircraft, cursing in the driving rain, because the hangars were full of flying saucers. Or so it seemed.

It soon became obvious that most, if not all, of these reports were just hoaxes. Meanwhile, other observations were coming to the rescue of those who were trying to explain the lack of physical evidence. These observations were reports of exploding UFOs. The interplanetary spaceships apologists had two theories to account for this phenomenon.

Firstly, the UFOs employed an inertia-less drive. A "force field" surrounded the UFO in such a manner that every part of the craft, its occupants and anything in the immediate vicinity was subjected to the same force. This conveniently eliminated the effects of inertia and minimised air resistance by carrying air along with it. However, should the power suddenly fail while the UFO was in rapid motion through the atmosphere, it would be destroyed instantly by friction with the air and its own momentum.

The second theory was the attractive idea that defective saucers were disintegrated by a built-in "destruct" system.

The most naive version of the spaceships theory is that propounded by NICAP, or at least, by some of its more vocal members. According to them the earth is being surveyed by beings from other planets, possibly by the use of remotely controlled rather than piloted devices. The U.S. Government knows "the truth" about this and NICAP is the "flying saucer lobby", dedicated to pressuring them into making this startling revelation. It seems that one of the main inspirations for this stems from the lively and informative books of Major Donald E. Keyhoe.

The main theme of Keyhoe's books is fascinating. The U.S. Air Force has discovered that the UFOs are interplanetary. Some officials wish to reveal this startling fact to the world, together with all relevant evidence. Others wish to explain away the best reports and conceal physical evidence, hoping that the UFOs will eventually go away. Still others refuse to look at the evidence, regarding the whole business as just too preposterous to be considered. This stirring saga of modern times is made more riveting by Keyhoe's taut style and skilful use of dialogue. It is made even more riveting by the findings of rather less biased investigators that most, if not all, of the startling events he describes are undoubtedly true. On the other hand, the sightings and events chronicled by Keyhoe can look less impressive if one chooses to differ from him in the interpretation of them.

It is easy to get carried away by Keyhoe's style. Here is a typical example, from "Flying Saucers from Outer Space":

"Riordan was silent until we turned into the airport road.

"'These foreign sightings--how many have there been?'

"'Hundreds, anyway. Probably as many as we have here, only we don't get all the reports.'

"'How many countries that you know of?'

"'Every country in Europe and South America, and most of the Far East. They've been seen in Canada, Mexico, Australia, Africa, Hawaii, the Bahamas, Greenland--practically everywhere, even the Antarctic.'

"'Somebody's certainly damn curious about this earth. Any foreign air force pilots report the things?'

"'Plenty,' I said. 'And foreign airline crews, too.'"

NICAP has mainly concerned itself with reports of UFOs seen in the air, especially visual sightings, confirmed by radar contacts. This organisation has always been unhappy about reports of UFO landings, "occupants", and "associated phenomena".

The opinions of Keyhoe and other like-minded ufologists carried so much weight that any serious attempts to explain or

describe the UFO phenomena in terms other than those of a survey by alien spacecraft became discredited. This climate of opinion led to a distorted selection and presentation of the available evidence. Most "serious" ufologists were of the opinion that UFOs were interplanetary spacecraft and that it was only a matter of time before this fact was accepted, in the face of an overwhelming accumulation of evidence and testimony.

These people sincerely believed that they were doing good to the cause of UFO research by their insistence on this plausible, if sensational, theory. But, as is now plain to many of us, this approach to the subject has ensured that, after more than 20 years, ufology is still popularly regarded as a pursuit for cranks, science-fiction writers seeking inspiration, and dear old ladies. Sceptics have taken their cue from the prevailing attitude and set out to show that there is no convincing evidence of alien space-craft.

In other words the UFO has been treated as a simple question. UFO erudites now realise that it is not a simple question, but a vast, open-ended field of study, which involves in some as yet unknown way, many types of phenomena, both physical and psychological. It is time to push the interplanetary spaceships theory into the background and to study the UFOs and the associated phenomena as they really are, rather than as some of us would wish them to be.

+ + + + + + + + + +

#### SOME INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DAHL AND CRISMAN, AND UFO RESEARCHER GARY LESLEY

On July 22, 1967, Gary Lesley, then Director of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation, attended the Annual N.W. UFO Convention in Seattle. There he met F.Lee Crisman, one of the harbour patrolmen who featured so prominently in the Maury Island affair of 1947. It seems that Crisman gave Mr Lesley the address of Harold Dahl, the other harbour patrolman who featured in the case. Accordingly, Lesley wrote to Dahl. In his letter, dated July 23, 1967, Lesley wrote that he wished Dahl to assist him in straightening out the facts on the Maury Island case. He explained that he had met Crisman at the UFO Convention and then asked him several questions:-

First of all, I would like to make a proposal concerning the photos. If you send the prints, we will have copies made immediately and return the prints as soon as we are finished (within 4-5 days). No damage will result to the prints you send.

Secondly, I would like to have your written testimony of the account as you remember it—entirely. Or, if this is too much trouble, I would appreciate only a write-down of the essential facts —mainly the facts that have been jumbled in the many magazine and book accounts of the case. Your written statement that the facts that you have cited are true to the best of your knowledge, would be most appreciated and useful.

And lastly, it would be very helpful if you would contact Dr. Crisman (he has not given me his address or telephone number, as he states that he does not like the publicity—I do not really blame him) and please tell him that a brief written testimony to the effect of all that he knows that actually transpired would be of great value to proving the validity of the Maury Island case.....

...I would also like to ask you two questions. (1) The boat that served as the "target" for the slag-like material from the UFO's: Is it still intact? (2) If no, are their (sic) dents or other damage (sic) visible on the boat as of this date?

The photographs referred to in this letter are presumably the ones allegedly taken during the famous sighting of June 21, 1947. UFO enthusiasts will find little difficulty in finding descriptions of this sighting, so I will quote only

the most relevant passage from Arnold and Palmer's book, "The Coming of the Saucers". This is part of a statement made by Dahl to Kenneth Arnold and it reads:

"All of us aboard the boat were afraid this center balloon was going to crash in the bay, and just a little while before it stopped lowering, we had pulled our boat over to the beach and got out with our harbor patrol camera. I took three or four photographs of these balloons."

Mr Lesley received a reply from Harold Dahl, dated August 22, 1967. It read:

Dear Mr. Lesley:

Please forgive the fact that there has been a delay in answering your letter - however it is due to our "rules of the game" - in that we felt many years ago - that any speaking on the subject should be with the full knowledge of the other man.

Mr. Crisman - has been in the deep South for some time and I have also had occasion to travel and we did not have the chance to meet until several days ago - here in Texas.

I will be quite frank with you Mr. Lesley - it has been our policy for some years not to answer any letters of any individual or organization that wanted to discuss the Maury Island Incident. I am sure that you can understand the way our story was received by the public and the press when it first appeared in 1947! No person would like to go through that treatment a second time.

I refer in particular to Mr. Crisman - he was the one that tried to show a very unbelieving world what was happening and for his trouble.....was subjected to some very harsh charges and treatment. I decided in the favor of simply a long and studied silence....and until lately, I felt that the matter had passed into history. However, for some large and unknown reason here..in..1967..twenty years later....I find that interest has been inspired all over again and also that people are not quite so ready to laugh and call me (us) insane.

I have left the matter up to Mr. Crisman - as to what and to whom we would discuss this matter with and where... after all - he is the one that suffered the most from the publicity (all bad) at the time. He returned to the Air Force to fly in Korea and finish his schooling after that as a psychologist.

I simply changed my business and retired to an out of the way place to allow the world to forget I existed. There is a TV series running now that I swear is based in the main on the life of F. Lee Crisman - I know him better than any living man and I know of some of the incredible adventures he has passed through in the last twenty years. I do not mean that his life has been that of this TV hero on the "Invaders" show.....but, there are parts of it that I swear were told to me years ago by Mr. Crisman....and I KNOW of several that are too wild to be believed....even by the enlightened attitude of 1967.

However, he is a serious investigator...and he has never sought any publicity and I know certainly does not at the present time. He has never used his knowledge of the Saucer thing for personal gain and has only contempt for those that do so.....I agree with him.

I do not know what his reason was for speaking to the group in Seattle....I do know it was not for the knowledge of those that attended for mere curiosity. It is not his policy to do any public act that will bring attention to himself....on this matter. I questioned him (day-before-yesterday) about his being there.....and he simply stated that it was better that I did not know all the facts. I know he was invited to appear in Omaha Nebraska - at a large MidWest Convention of some type with a Dr. Stranges....and they even printed his name on the posters.....but, he did not show up there or in New York....still he did speak to a rather small group in East Texas....I feel that there are certain people that he wishes to see or that he wishes to warn at these places....for he will not stay around but does leave within 10 or 15 minutes of the finish of his speech. I know he is an accomplished speaker...still says he is not....is very well trained on the lecture platform...but, will not admit it.

From my conversations with him over the years - I know that he is probably the most learned individual in this country in the

general knowledge of UFOs. He is one of the few men - that have studied the files of Project Blue Book and has not hesitated to call a spade a spade, concerning the material there.

For all my years of contact with him - I cannot say that I know him any better than I did in 1947. I know him better than any living person....but, that is not saying a great deal. He comes and goes...and I will say this...he never was the same man I knew after the Maury Island thing. Something changed for Lee and I have seen him less and less through the years.

The next paragraph, of about 7 lines, has been obliterated, as if by a censor. The letter then continues:

I think that with this background material you can grant me some lee way if I hesitate to answer all your questions. I will, as well as I can, but, I will not make any statements on matters that Lee Crisman has not want(ed) me to discuss. I will not discuss any contacts with other persons of any nature at all - until he says it is O.K.

In answer to your questions:

No. 1. I can allow copies of the photos...not send...them or give them into your keeping. I can allow you to have copies.

No. 2. I can give you my written account of the incident as it happened but, only after Lee Crisman has read it and approved.

No. 3. I have already sent along your name and address to Lee's New Orleans address - but, if you receive an answer it will be a very big change in his usual attitude.

No. 4. My son is living in this area and I can get you his statement as to what happened that day....but, again, only after Lee has read and approved.

No. 5. The boat is still intact....but, sold many years ago - however I know the man that has it now and I have been friends with him for many years....I have not seen that boat for several years. As for damage.. much of it was repaired at the time...but, we still have pictures of it as it was at that time.

You state that Lee specified that the UFO situation was a serious thing and not one for jokes....he is right...I doubt very much that many men know what the real facts are...I certainly do not nor do I pretend to know. Lee Crisman, does, and he is sought after by many areas of research. I do know that he has become a world traveler and that certain government areas are very interested in his movements at all times. He sometimes drops out of sight for months on end and returns just as quietly. I do not know how he supports his manner of living, but he never lacks for money.

I served under him both in the service and in the Harbor Patrol and obedience is a way of life while one is with him. One simply does not pry into his business and he is quietly obeyed by most people.

I discussed the whole thing with him and I feel he is willing to once again put the whole thing into proper perspective. Due, I feel to the change in popular attitude and the fact that one is not always classified as some kind of a nut...in the UFO...field today.

I can give you a Tacoma address that will allow a letter to reach him - but his telephone is unlisted.....the number you find in the book is actually another residence where messages are left for him. Should you have an answer from him....(and it is quite unlikely) then you may ask him directly for his comments on the Maury Island Incident.

I can give you one suggestion that will be of value to your research....ask the Tacoma Public Library for permission to look at their August 1947 file of the Tacoma Times ...a newspaper that no longer exists today. There you will find much of the story as it was reported in the press at the time. It is not accurate but it is the beginning of the news releases....and it does back up much of what was done and said at the time,...in many ways it is what one reads between the lines that the reporters were afraid to print that impresses one. I do not mean a fear from some "outside" force...but, a fear of local ridicule.

I hope that I have answered some of your questions...

Yours truly,

Harold Dahl

In the bottom left hand corner, at the end of this letter, a few lines of typing have been crossed out by the "censor".

Mr Lesley replied to Harold Dahl, in a letter dated August 26, 1967, thanking him for his reply and requesting further information and copies of those elusive photographs. In his letter Mr Lesley does not mention the "censorship". He points out to Dahl that if he can compile all the information and get it written up before October 15th, there is a good chance of getting it published in the December, 1967, issue of SAGA magazine.

On September 5, Mr Lesley received a reply, dated September 1, not from Harold Dahl, but from Lee Crisman. The letter read:

Dear Sir,

I have read the correspondence that has been exchanged between you and Hal Dahl. I do not approve of it. He has broken a long standing agreement of ours and I have spoken of the matter to him. He will not correspond with you again.

I do not want the matter in public print! I do not want public opinion - be it favorable or adverse opinion. The photos are not available to you at this time! I do not want any part of my personal life discussed in letters or in print! I do not want any speculation as to my reasons for travel or my interests in the UFO appearing in print or in any correspondence that I can control! I can assure you that I have little interest in UFOs and that that I do have is far removed from being of interest to any organized group or those people that read "Saga" magazine.

Hal Dahl has little information that would interest you - your letter to him stated that you had researched the news files....you have the story.... I do not pretend to be able to alter the newspapers of this nation.

You must realize that the larger share of those people that are interested in the UFO thing fall into two major divisions - with a very tiny third. The first group are those - that have no other purpose but to attract attention to themselves - bizarre adventures and messages from "spacemen". They are fools! The second group see the UFO as an opportunity to make money...some do! Most are not interested in UFOs - only the money. The tiny third group have a serious and scientific interest....admirable, but, mostly a hobby group...and mostly fools!

We have no interest in any group - serious or not - we have no need for any association with any unit. I say we for I can assure you that Hal Dahl does join me in this opinion.

It may appear to you that I am being rather abrupt about your interest in a matter that should be of public concern...I am, as far as I can research or investigate, the public laughed away its right to be informed, many years ago.

You people that have your organizations - UAPRO - etc; etc - have everything you need to do your own research and most of you play games and make a silly hobby out of a matter that should scare you to death. I have little patience with most of your organizations.

I will tell you this much, the Maury Island Incident was no hoax. The FBI and the Air Force knew it was no hoax. The pieces of the UFO that are still in our possession have proven that it was no hoax.

I assure you of this because - I can anticipate your question of our basic reasons for retaining our personal lives to ourselves..and it is that alone..we simply do not want any more publicity of any type. The very idea of your publishing a magazine article gives me a right to say no - I do not want to be on public display for any purpose.

Each time I find it necessary to speak to a group, I must follow up with a series of denials of my (our) time and effort to help some group or person to write of the Maury Island Incident. Despite Mr. Dahl's ideas..this is the only reason that I so seldom consent to speak to any group.

Please excuse my abrupt answer to your letters to Hal Dahl - but, I hope that this will end the matter. We have no information for you!

Yours truly,

F.Lee Crisman

After receiving this letter, Gary Lesley wrote an indignant letter to Harold Dahl, dated September 16, 1967. In his letter Lesley objected to Crisman answering letters addressed to Dahl and asked why, if Crisman objected to the matter being discussed, had he given him Dahl's address in the first place? In his letter, McLesley also alludes to Crisman's habit of addressing some of the more "deep end" UFO groups, rather than some of the more scientifically-oriented organisations.

On September 18th, Mr Lesley received another letter from Dahl, dated September 16. It reads:

Dear Mr. Leslie: (sic)

I have at times been contacted by some of the very prominent speakers and investigators in the UFO picture. Most I pay but, small attention to, but I do respect the work of Dr. Frank E. Stranges of Van Nuys California. I have recently been contacted by him with the reference to organizing one or more 3-4 day conferences in Washington or Oregon. This to take place in December.

I would like to do so very much, because, I feel that he has something to offer. He has an 80 minute full color movie that is well worth the time and money to see. I do not feel that I have the contacts and the ability to make a thing like this into what it should be ...and I also feel that there should be some organization to sponsor this, for it is good.

I would like to know if your organization is interested in sponsoring a thing like this. I was thinking of the hall in Seattle where Maj. Aho held his meeting last summer. I feel that with a good organization sponsoring and with a good publicity start it would be something to offer that would be worth while. I am sure that we could gather other speakers to assist...but, you would know more about that than I.

Please let me know, Dr. Stranges has all the needed printing and posters - etc,

Hal Dahl

Rt 2 - Twin Gates

Centralia, Wash.

On September 28, Mr Lesley received another letter from Crisman, dated September 27. It reads:

Dear Mr. Leslie: (sic)

I am very sorry to have to again step into the correspondence between you and Hal Dahl. He turned your letter over to me and I have read it with interest...but I do have some puzzlement. I felt that I had a command of English that would allow me to present our side of the matter to you and still not really hurt your feelings.

I feel the problem stems from several sources - one, of course, is that we do not like bringing attention to ourselves, and like it or not...I am irrevocably tied to Hal on any of the questions that arise on the Maury Island incident. Any and all attention that he is given is also given to me.

Mr. Leslie, I am an industrial psychologist - I deal with a very large group of hard-headed businessmen. I do not like to be always explaining - why my name has popped up in some author's book or

article - that refers to UFO's. I was under the impression that all that was past...and here we have a whole series of new and reprinted books on the market...all of whom seem to refer to the old Maury Island matter.

I have never been any man of "Mystery" as so many of these old books and the newer authors attempt to describe. I simply had to make a living and in doing so - the groupings of people that I had business relations with were those that re-acted in a most avid manner to UFO reports.

Secondly - I gave away Hal's name and address on the basis that if he wished to make any statements concerning Maury Island - he certainly could. You must be made aware of the fact that certain areas - and some people have openly accused me of "private censorship" of facts and knowledge that I had no right to censor. Some of these people were in attendance at that meeting. I did not (and do not know you) know what your interests were aside from an idle and passing interest in UFO's.

I am at a loss to understand...why people insist on making me the focal point of interest in a matter that happened twenty years ago. I have repeated over and over...it is a simple matter of \$\$\$ that such public attention is NOT good for my business relations. No matter how loud I say this...I am answered..with the same old tired arguments.."You are suppressing certain facts..." I have no secret facts, beyond the truths that were suppressed in Project Blue Book.

There are and always have been certain small groups in the business and academic worlds that have extra and advanced interest, and to them and for them I have told what I know...this has led to a reputation of speaking to only selected few. and special groups. While this may have basic truth in it..there has always been a reason. Most of the time these people were of that calibre that know and understood what I was talking about.

I have out of my own interest kept close track of certain types and trends in the mystery of the UFOs. I have files of material and I have run into incidents that are very odd. However, I travel widely and this allows me to be in areas that do have certain of the "extra" attentions of the UFOs<sup>1</sup>. It has always been a type of precise "high-wire" balance act to keep up an investigative and recording interest...and at the same time deal with the areas of a business world that has no interest in such matters.

Hal has talked to me extensively in the last week and he feels that it is time to let up and cooperate with certain people..why you, I don't know...but, he seems to feel that you WERE treated a bit unfairly. I don't quite see it that way...but, I will not object to what he wishes to do about the matter.

As far as I am concerned it is his "baby" and I will not make any interference..as long as it is handled in the manner that you describe...and not with tongue in cheek...and making Hal and I look like fools. You must understand that we have been approached before and with all the promises in the world to handle the matter with a serious approach...only to find out that the reporter lied and in his article made us look ...not only as fools...but, as careless pranksters that cared not a whit that men died in the prank.

This is not easy to take..and it is easy to make a rule that NO ONE talks to ANYONE on the Maury Island Affair. However, if you and Hal wish to go ahead..I will say no more.

One thing that stemmed ~~with~~ from the correspondence with you was a trip back to Maury Island to see the place again. We found some startling things going on. For one thing..the area where the material fell...had no plant growth. For a second thing..the place was posted and a Federal project was going on to remove and level the whole area. We ignored the signs (it was Sunday) and explored until a watchman came and removed us. The question is..after all these years..WHY? A bit of inquiry revealed that government men of some agency have returned over the years..many times for soil samples and pictures. We also took pictures. You may have an interest there.

Box 722  
Tacoma

Yours truly,  
F.L.Urisman

It seems that Mr Lesley and his colleagues had some suspicions about these letters. They apparently suspected that they may all have been written by the same person. This suspicion is mainly based on a comparison of the signatures on the letters.

In addition to the letters, Mr Lesley also had telephone calls from Dahl. Then one day he mentioned to Dahl that all his mail was being opened before he received it, and that he believed that his telephone was being tapped. He heard no more from Mr Dahl after that.

We hope that the foregoing material will prove to be of some interest~~to~~ to those of our readers who have always been intrigued by the Maury Island Affair. Any comments or further information would be welcome.

---

We are grateful to Mr Ray Houser, of Seathurst, Washington, U.S.A., for supplying copies of the above correspondence.

---

#### THE STYLE OF "SPACELINK"

After reading John Rimmer's general criticisms of the layout of UFO magazines in our last issue, Lionel Beer, Managing Editor of SPACELINK, wrote to us:-

"...I hope that perhaps his criticisms do not extend to SPACELINK, which although not design perfect, is not crammed with "many different ... ornaments and arabesques". While we make the best possible use of space and make no apology for this, we do not cram in decoration just to fill up the odd blank space.

"Perhaps you would care to mention this in your next issue..."

John Rimmer comments ----

Do not be put off by the curious Rene Magritte quality of the cover of SPACELINK, which shows the Post Office Tower wondrously transported to the Cheshire Plain. Contented cows munch unconcerned in the foreground, while a battery of UFOs wheel and turn over Jodrell Bank. Down below, Sir Bernard Lovell is probably being revived by assistants burning feathers under his nose.

Once past this strange aberration, it is really rather good. The printing, both of text and illustrations, is of the highest quality. For the most part the articles are clearly and directly presented. The reproductions from other publications are well handled. The Contents page is rather confusing, and a few horizontal rules and leaders are needed to guide the eye around. The Editors are rather pressed for space and this does show: one small item is slotted into the page vertically, and others are dropped into awkward spaces. This is probably unavoidable, and does at least show that the Editors are trying to give us value for money.

However... although SPACELINK has avoided the 'arabesques', it does use seventeen different kinds of rules and borders, and fifteen different typefaces in the headings, not counting those reproduced from other sources. This produces a fidgety, unsure appearance, that mars many pages.

Someone should try to be a little less lavish with the Letraset.

---

SPACELINK is excellent value for money and is to be highly recommended. It was originally published by the Isle of Wight UFO Investigation Society. Since it was taken over and published as an independent UFO magazine by Lionel Beer, it has improved with each issue. How to obtain SPACELINK. See next page:

SPACELINK SUBSCRIPTIONS Single copies: 3/-. Copies by post: 3/6. Annual postal subscription: 13/6 (4 issues). Overseas subscription: 14/- in sterling. Subscription Address:-(excluding U.S.A. and Australia) Miss Christine Henning, SK Subscription Dept., 99 Mayday Gardens, London S.E.3, England. United States Distribution: Single copies by post: \$0.60. Annual postal subscription: \$1.80. Sammy Paradice, SK Dept., 290 Washington, Vidor, Texas 77662, U.S.A. Australian Distribution: Single copies by post: \$0.45. William Moser, JP, Hon. Secretary - UFOIC, 19 Hurlstone Avenue, Hurlstone Park, Sydney, N.S.W. 2193.

---

#### NOTES QUOTES & QUERIES

##### Patrick Moore Visits Warminster

Mr Arthur Shuttlewood has informed us that Patrick Moore, together with a BBC 2 Television team, visited Warminster on January 31, and did some filmed interviews on Cradle Hill. Moore interviewed Arthur Shuttlewood for the programme, which is to be one of the "One Pair of Eyes" series. It is to be screened on Saturday, May 10th, at 9.5 p.m., on BBC 2.

Mr Shuttlewood writes:

"This may be something of a breakthrough for all our earnest efforts, because the BEC team came up to Cradle Hill with us last night. I will leave the programme to describe what they all say, including Patrick Moore, whom I met and was interviewed by for the first time..... Now that Patrick Moore and the BBC have visited us, with results that shocked and pleased them, I feel meekly satisfied."

Patrick Moore is notorious for his completely negative attitude to UFO research. Therefore, local amateur astronomers were agape with amazement when shown Arthur's letter. After some thought and consultation it was opined that whatever may or may not have been seen by Moore and the BBC team on Cradle Hill, the TV programme will nevertheless be a typical mickey-taking exercise. If not, great will be the astonishment among astronomers and ufologists alike. Wait and see!

##### Cambodia's Position on Suggested U.N. UFO Investigation

Following ICUFON's petition to U.N. members, organiser Von Keviczky received the following reply from the permanent representative of Cambodia:

"The Royal Government of Cambodia regrets that it is definitely not in the position to find means of carrying out your projects mentioned above, either in the UN session on the peaceful uses of outer space, in the Security Council, or in a UN agreed authority; and it is our opinion that in principle such an initiative should be taken up by the great industrial powers.

As you know Cambodia is a very poor country, and is not, without doubt, in a position to help the research and study institute with money or equipment.

The Royal Government is however prepared to make available a large area for the construction of the institute's headquarters and other control buildings, to accord to the institute protection from nationalisation, specific concessions and privileges, as well as to consider receiving UN emissaries in conformity with international diplomatic usages.  
(Source: UFO-NACHTRICHTEN. Translation: Antony C. Symons, BA, FLA)

##### Note For 'Allende Letters' Specialists

Diligent searches in 'Janes Fighting Ships' and similar reference works have failed to bring to light any USN ship

called "Andrew Furnseth", or variations thereof. Can anybody give further details to enable the ship to be traced? Was it a destroyer, battleship, aircraft carrier? No-one seems to say.

Note for John Keel Fans

It was recently reported that Kansas City Council were considering a proposal that their police force should wear turtle-necked sweaters and berets!

---

EDITORIAL: Amiable Eccentrics? - Yes! (continued from page 1)

ease,

I found their conversations boring. Not just passively boring, but actively boring, half hypnotised by the tedious predictability of it all as they droned on and on. I would arrive home "yawning and whimpering", to borrow one of Peter Simple's vivid phrases. Finally, for the sake of my mental health--such as it is--I went home by train.

So there is no need to be upset about being regarded as eccentric, particularly if you are so regarded by such as these. Do not be apologetic about your interest in UFOs. Be aggressive. Without, if possible, losing your amiability, show up your critics for what they are -- boring, stick-in-the-mud, mediocre, conformist, henpecked suburbanites.

Come off the defensive. Attack! We may be eccentrics, but at least we are amiable eccentrics, dispelling boredom and spreading goodwill and friendliness. Long live amiable eccentricity. Long live ufology!

---

Merseyside UFO Bulletin

EDITOR John Harney, 53 Woodyear Road, Bromborough, WIRRAL,  
Cheshire, L62 6AY. Telephone: 051-327 2146

ASSISTANT EDITOR John A. Rimmer, 6 Norgate Street, LIVERPOOL,  
L4 ORH.

SCIENCE EDITOR Alan W. Sharp, 35 Radstock Road, LIVERPOOL,  
L6 3AU. Telephone: 051-263 5685

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is no use putting 5d stamps on letters to the editors if you do not write the full address, including Postcode on the envelope. Some letters are taking many days to reach us because they are not properly addressed.

We would particularly welcome letters to the editor, for publication in the Bulletin. If you would like a letter published, please set it out in a manner suitable for publication and mark it "For Publication."

For exchange, or price one shilling, as available.

Published and printed by the Editors.

Note: Some readers appear to be under the impression that this Bulletin is published by the Merseyside UFO Research Group. This is not so. It is an independent publication. The Merseyside UFO Research Group does not have a publication at present.

---